

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 925

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to honor Smith County Mayor Michael Nesbitt
upon the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly recognize those
estimable Tennesseans who have devoted their lives to public service; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Michael Nesbitt, who has served admirably as the
mayor of Smith County for the last sixteen years; he recently announced that he would not seek
re-election, bringing to a close four terms of invaluable service to the residents of Smith County;
and

WHEREAS, since taking office, Mayor Nesbitt has run Smith County as if it were a
business, being mindful of not spending more than what was available and of maximizing every
tax dollar; and

WHEREAS, his four terms in office have been a phenomenal success, as evidenced by
the countless contributions and improvements that have been made during his tenure; because
of his astute fiscal responsibility, Smith County was able to grow and prosper in ways that were
previously unimaginable; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Michael Nesbitt got spending under control by making each
department responsible, and he increased funding by increasing revenue. He also made
certain that the county paid its debts; in the instance of the 2002 School Building Project, the
debt was paid off nearly two years ahead of schedule; and

WHEREAS, during the last sixteen years, Smith County has obtained millions of dollars
in grant funds to assist with things such as purchasing gear and devices for the Volunteer Fire
Departments and the Smith County Ambulance Service, as well as purchasing flood-damaged
properties on Kinslow Lane, helping property owners; and

WHEREAS, Smith County has seen unprecedented growth during Mayor Nesbitt's time at the helm; the county has constructed a new career center, senior center, health department, head start, fitness center, agriculture center, jail, court facility, and two new ambulance stations; additionally, job growth has been such that the 2009 employment rate of 13.9 percent has decreased to 3.4 percent; and

WHEREAS, the county has also been able to purchase nine new fire trucks, as well as seven new patrol cars every year or every other year, as need warrants, and the Smith County Landfill, which formerly depended upon \$100,000 from the county general fund, is now self-sustaining due to its own revenues; and

WHEREAS, other accomplishments credited to Mayor Michael Nesbitt are the discontinuance of the \$50.00 wheel tax, a property tax that has remained low throughout his time in office, and the revival of the Smith County Fair, an event that had been defunct for twenty years; and

WHEREAS, throughout his many successes, Mayor Nesbitt has been blessed with the love of his wife of twenty-seven years, Leyanne, and their children, Matthew Nesbitt and Lauren McCaleb; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Michael Nesbitt has been a faithful, capable public servant for the last sixteen years, and he is wholly deserving of our approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Smith County Mayor Michael Nesbitt, commending him for four exceptional terms as mayor and wishing him all the best as he enters a much-deserved retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.